

As we enter into the month of May, we can all spread knowledge on prevention, changing the risk factors over which we have control. The Stroke Association of Southern California has reported that 70 percent of strokes are preventable through lifestyle changes, control of risk factors, and medical care. Several dangerous factors include physical inactivity and obesity, excessive alcohol consumption, and smoking.

The good news is that efforts aimed at prevention are working. Between the years 2000 and 2008, stroke mortality rates in California have declined from an average of 61.2 deaths per 100,000 people to 38.9 deaths per 100,000 people. We can continue this trend by raising awareness of risk factors and reducing inequalities in access to information and healthcare.

Mr. Speaker, American families deserve healthy and happy lives. This month let us rededicate ourselves to helping our families and neighbors become more aware of the risks and causes of high blood pressure and stroke.

IN RECOGNITION OF HOPKINS
JUNIOR HIGH

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2012

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the remarkable achievement of the Hopkins Junior High School Science Team of Fremont, California for winning the National Science Bowl. This is the second time in four years that Hopkins Junior High School has won the National Science Bowl, sponsored by the Department of Energy.

Hopkins Junior High owes their success to team members Karthik Bharathala, Dhruv Muley, Catherine Zeng, Brian Tseng, Mark Choi and their teacher Paul Ricks, who practiced tirelessly for this year's competition. Clearly, that practice certainly paid off.

In the National Science Bowl, judged by United States Energy Secretary Steven Chu, five member teams compete against each other in a fast paced Jeopardy style format where teams try to be the first to correctly answer an oral question posed about science or math. Nearly 14,000 students participated in regional tournaments and more than 100 teams competed in the Nationals.

This accomplishment is evidence of the quality of Fremont's public schools. The dedication of students, teachers and parents has led to this great success, and I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating them. We are incredibly proud of the Hopkins Junior High Science Team and their coach for this outstanding achievement.

IN HONOR OF MICCERICA THOMAS

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2012

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, those who give back to their communities as especial treasures for the actively seek to better their inheritance. Miccerica Thomas grew up in Mount

Vernon on a quiet street where her parents owned their home. She began her studies in the city's public schools and graduated from Roosevelt High School in Yonkers. She went on to achieve a degree in Business Accounting from Westchester Community College. While she now lives in White Plains, she continues to devote most of her time to Mount Vernon.

When she began working with Henry Allen over eleven years ago, she knew she had found an organization where she would be committed to for the long haul. At that time Henry was producing the Two Fools Charity Basketball Games out of his own pocket. He had the idea of giving back to the elementary school that he went to when he came to New York after losing his parents. Miccerica volunteered to help out and has never left.

Whether seeking donations, stuffing bags or making phone calls, Miccerica is an essential component of the small team that has made an idea a reality. When it was impossible for anyone to be on site while workmen were constructing the new computer lab, Miccerica jumped in a car and came to Mount Vernon to supervise. When a child lost her telephone at a game, Miccerica scoured the bleachers looking for it.

When not working with the Henry Allen Educational & Learning Foundation, Miccerica can be found shopping for her favorite items—shoes, or working with the White Plains Housing Authority's summer basketball games.

Her son, Quan, and daughter, Roben, are currently in college pursuing psychology and forensic science studies. While they're away at school she concentrates spending more time with her adopted daughters, Cassandra and Carolyn.

I enthusiastically join with the Henry Allen Educational & Learning Foundation in honoring Miccerica Thomas for the good work she has done with the Foundation for the people of Mount Vernon.

IN SUPPORT OF THE EXPORT-
IMPORT BANK

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2012

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, we have spent months in this House watching the Republicans create an unstable business environment and hurt U.S. jobs while they delay the reauthorization of the Export-Import Bank. While the Export-Import Bank supports hundreds of thousands of American jobs every year at no cost and no risk to the taxpayer, the Republicans have been stuck between their radical tea-party ideology of pure free-markets on one side and the Republican Majority's relationship with Delta Airlines on the other. We now have a compromise that does not extend the Bank for as long as it needs to be or for as much as it needs to be long-term. We also have a real lack of understanding in the Congress and in the Public of what this Export-Import Bank does.

Over 50 countries have export-import banks and all of the them are growing right now. While they are competing and running faster, the Republicans have us sitting on our hands and unilaterally disarming. I could fill this

chamber with the bipartisan, non-partisan, expert studies telling us for decades that we here in the United States don't do a good job promoting our exports.

My constituents, the port in my district and the huge number of exporting businesses in my district need the same kind of support from their government that all of their Chinese, and Indian, and European competitors are getting.

The current deal that's being worked on only reauthorizes the Export-Import Bank for a few years. My bill uses the same bipartisan framework that exists today and would authorize it for 10, through 2021.

Building on this bipartisan framework, my bill would also truly expand the Export-Import Bank's lending authorities, doubling it to \$200 Billion. The Export-Import Bank makes money for the taxpayer, is virtually no risk, and the lending authority should be big enough so that it will actually keep up with our exports into the foreseeable future. This higher authority, along with the longer extension, will create the stability businesses and their workers need.

Finally, my bill asks the Government Accountability Office to study the Export-Import Bank and compare it to the Export-Import Banks its competing against in other countries around the world. How are we competing now that we have real stability and a cap that's responsible but doesn't constrain us? What can the ExIm Bank do better? This is the kind of forward analysis Congress needs to help our exporters.

Mr. Speaker, it's long past time for us to get the lobbyists out of the way of all other American businesses so that we can create jobs here at home.

PHARMACY BENEFIT MANAGERS

HON. JESSE L. JACKSON, JR.

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2012

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my strong support of H.R. 4215—The Medicare Pharmacy Transparency and Fair Auditing Act. This bill, introduced by Ms. McMORRIS-RODGERS and Mr. ROSS, has bipartisan support and will result in more competitive practices in the Pharmaceutical industry. H.R. 4215 will require increased regulation of Pharmacy Benefit Managers, also known as PBMs, to ensure that consumers are receiving the care they deserve at competitive and fair costs.

Mr. Speaker, within the pharmaceutical industry there is a pressing issue concerning the lack of transparency surrounding PBM business practices. We cannot afford to allow these businesses to continue as usual in the pharmaceutical industry. The recent Express Scripts and Medco merger means that "the big three" PBMs will now control benefits for 72% of all Americans. I believe this makes it much more important that we act decisively and pass this legislation.

PBMs have engaged in practices that include: negotiating with drug manufacturers at the same time as employers and health plans to ensure they secure prescription drug plans that will benefit themselves, switching customers to higher priced plans and benefitting from both the rebate and higher payment without any benefit to the health plan provider and

employer, and also repeatedly changing pharmacy audit rules which makes it more difficult to ensure compliance. Mr. Speaker, these are only a few of the issues that plague loosely regulated PBMs and the pharmaceutical industry. We must bring this to an end.

H.R. 4215 will provide a greater level of transparency in PBM business practices, interactions with Medicare Part D, and other pharmaceutical stakeholders. It will increase regulation on PBMs, which are currently regulated in only a handful of states, and make certain that our Nation's pharmaceutical consumers are adequately protected. This should not be seen as a partisan issue, but rather, a quality of life issue that affects every single American.

Mr. Speaker, let's act now to pass this legislation and put a stop to anti-competitive practices in the prescription drug market. Let's protect consumers from being forced to pay higher prices for their medication. Let's do our part to lower healthcare costs, and ensure the best care for our constituents.

RECOGNIZING MICHELLE SCOTT
FOR RECEIVING THIS YEAR'S
FEDERAL SERVICE AWARD

HON. RENEE L. ELLMERS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2012

Mrs. ELLMERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Michelle Scott of Raleigh, North Carolina, for receiving this year's Federal Service Award at the Department of Justice's annual victim's service awards. Having worked with crime victims for the past 12 years, she has shown great dedication to the people of North Carolina. The award she received recognizes service providers, other professionals, or volunteers, for their exceptional contributions and extraordinary impact on behalf of crime victims in Indian Country, on military installations, in national parks, or in other areas under federal jurisdiction.

Since 2003, Ms. Scott has led the biannual Federal Domestic Violence Conference in North Carolina. In response to the requirements of Title I of the Justice for All Act of 2004, Ms. Scott led the judges and prosecutors in the Eastern District of North Carolina to place the victim at the forefront of criminal proceedings. Ms. Scott developed and implemented model victim-witness training programs in Kosovo and Albania for judges, prosecutors, victim advocates, law enforcement offices, and non-governmental agencies.

I would like to express my sincere congratulations to Michelle Scott on receiving this year's Federal Service Award. I join with her family, friends, and colleagues in offering my praise and admiration for her work on behalf of crime victims here and abroad. I applaud what Michelle has done for the citizens of North Carolina and in Kosovo. We are lucky to have such a champion of victim's rights in our great state.

The 2nd district of North Carolina thrives on strong leaders like Michelle, who work hard every day to protect and serve the people of our community. I look forward to hearing about her future achievements, and may God continue to grant her success and happiness in all her endeavors.

HONORING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE TRACY RANCH

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2012

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Tracy Ranch on the occasion of its 150th anniversary celebration. The Tracy Ranch has made a significant and historical impact on agriculture in Kern County. During its 150 year history, the Tracy Ranch has become a family-held operation that grows cotton, wheat, potatoes, tomatoes, almonds and pistachios. Beef raising rounds out the operations of Buttonwillow Land & Cattle Company, a partnership made up of three families: the Freys, Selvidges and Tracys.

The Tracy Ranch legacy officially began in 1862 when Ferdinand Tracy and Wellington Canfield formed the partnership Canfield & Tracy, a rangeland cattle operation. Their herds roamed the lower San Joaquin Valley, grazing on wild grass in an untamed dominion ruled by the likes of rattlesnakes, jackrabbits, coyotes and waterfowl. In 1875, Ferdinand married Ellen Baker, the widow of Colonel Thomas Baker. In 1898, Ferdinand's nephew, William Tracy, established what would be today's headquarters and historical park on Wildwood Road, 5 miles northeast of Buttonwillow. This era was marked by the raising of Belgian draft horses and later, ostriches. His marriage in 1904 to the daughter of another pioneer family, Fannie C. Rowlee, would yield six children.

With the death of William Tracy in 1941, his widow Fannie Tracy rallied her widespread children and their spouses back to the ranch. The result was a turning point that saved a ranch ravaged by bad luck of the 1920s and the Great Depression of the 1930s. Fueled by the talents and resources of the Freys, Selvidges and Tracys, made urgent by World War II, the ranch was transformed from an equine epoch into a mechanized farming operation. Today in the fifth generation, diversity is their strength. The Tracy Ranch is respected and should be honored for the achievement of their unity.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the hard work and dedication that the Tracy Ranch has put forth. Reaching its 150th year, the Tracy Ranch is joined today by only a handful of other surviving Kern County operations with roots going back to early California. I congratulate the Tracy Ranch on its many years of dedicated and successful work in California, and wish the families many successful years to come.

IN HONOR OF RICHARD SOSIS

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2012

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, Richard Sosis is a committed social activist who has contributed to his communities through his work as a teacher and an attorney. He was born in 1941 in the Bronx to Phil, a union activist father, and Muriel, a mother active in tenant's-rights causes including the unsuccessful integration

of Parkchester. His parents worked for racial and economic justice, rearing Richard in a household where politics was a constant conversation, even bringing him to demonstrations for civil rights causes.

This turned near tragic when the family attended a concert in Peekskill featuring Paul Robeson which was attacked by local racists protesting an integrated gathering. On the bus ride home, rocks smashed the bus windows and Muriel had to remove pieces of glass from his hair.

Not unexpectedly, Richard joined the civil rights and anti-war struggles of his youth. At CCNY he was a leader in gathering support for Freedom Rides and marches on Washington to press for greater civil rights for all Americans.

In 1963 he graduated and taught social studies teacher in a Queens middle school. In 1964 he entered St. John's University School of Law, graduating in 1967, passing the bar and becoming a practicing attorney. For eight years he had two full-time jobs—a teacher in Queens and as a lawyer in Bay Ridge, Brooklyn.

In 1971 Richard married Marion McBride, and they bought a brownstone in Cobble Hill. In 1975 their daughter Karin was born and in 1978 their son Andrew was born. Andrew passed away several years ago, and Karin lives and works in central Africa.

After Karin's birth Richard focused on teaching, with one of the first programs teaching law in a NYC public school. In 1995 he pursued his legal practice full-time.

Richard and Marion divorced in 1989, and Richard moved to Hillcrest Avenue and was elected President of the PTA at Albert Leonard Middle School. He met math teacher Judith Bobrow, and in 1991 they were married. Judith and Richard had a daughter Leah, in 1994, who is a senior and on the high honor roll at New Rochelle High School.

Richard has been on the Board of the New Rochelle Bar Association, and served as its president from 2007 to 2009. He continues his work with the Lawyer-in-the-Classroom program, which partners local attorneys with teachers and schools across the city.

Richard is the current Chair of the New Rochelle Zoning Board, having served on the board as a member and chair for almost 10 years.

For his years of service to his communities, I join with the New Rochelle Democratic Club in honoring Richard Sosis and wish him every success.

COMMEMORATING CINCO DE MAYO
AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF LATINO
AMERICANS

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, May 5 is the 150th anniversary of Cinco de Mayo which marks the historic triumph of the Mexican people over the French Army in Puebla. This holiday commemorates the Battle of Puebla where General Zaragoza and his ragtag band of patriots fought off the powerful and large French Army for their independence.

This battle and victory is an example of the many common bonds Mexicans and Americans have, such as, liberty and democracy.